

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /090 W

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R 292139Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6294

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1592

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG CA

SUBJECT: ENERGY: PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION ACT

POUCHED ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA FOR INFO

1. IN RELATIVELY MINOR COMPROMISE REACHED ON APRIL 28, OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES HAVE AGREED, DESPITE CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL MISGIVINGS, TO END THEIR LONG BLOCKADE AGAINST THE PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION ACT (BILL C-32), WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WOULD PERMIT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FIX INTERPROVINCIAL OIL AND GAS PRICES UNILATERALLY IN THE EVENT VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT WITH PRODUCING AND CONSUMING PROVINCES CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY OTTAWA.

2. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE COMPROMISE, AS CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY, ANY TEM MPS WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND A TWO-DAY DEBATE AND VOTE ON ANY CABINET DECISION SETTING PRICES ON GAS AND/OR OIL. FOR THE GOC'S PART, ANY CABINET DECISION ON PRICES WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMONS WITHIN 15 DAYS, IF IN SESSION. IF NOT IN SESSION, A CABINET PROCLAMATION ON PRICES WOULD BE PLACED BEFORE THE HOUSE WITHIN 15 DAYS OF ITS RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS.

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3. MER OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT COMPROMISE SHOULD

PERMIT PASSAGE OF C-32 BY THE HOUSE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT GOC STILL HOPES NOT REPEAT NOT TO HAVE TO USE THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO SET PRICES, PREFERRING TO REACH VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT THROUGH ON-GOING BILATERAL TALKS WITH PROVINCES TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON GAS PRICE AND ON EXISTING OIL PRICE AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES JUNE 30.

4. COMMENT: GOC STILL HOPES AVOID APPEARANCE OF IGNORING PROVINCIAL CONCERNS, BUT NOW HAS POWER TO DO SO IF NECESSARY. COMPROMISE ALSO AVOIDS BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE AS TO WHAT RIGHTS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS VIS-A-VIS PROVINCES IN RESOURCE AREA.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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